

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11580 281329Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6507

S E C R E T CAIRO 11580

NODIS

CHEROKEE

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, EG

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S MOOD

1. YOU WILL HAVE SENSED FROM MY SEVERAL REPORTING MESSAGES OF MY AUGUST 26 TALK WITH FAHMY THAT HE IS AGAIN IN ONE OF HIS TESTY MOODS. HE IS FED UP WITH EVERYONE--US, THE PRESIDENT, HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND ANYONE ELSE THAT HE CAN THINK OF. HE FINDS IT TOUGH TO BE A GENIUS IN WHAT HE CONSIDERS A SEA OF MEDIOCRITY. HE THINKS WE ARE NOT ACTING IN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ELSEWHERE AS A SUPER POWER SHOULD. HE IS SCATHINGLY CRITICAL OF SADAT FOR POOR POLITICAL JUDGEMENT. HE THINKS MOST OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GAMASY, ARE DUNDERHEADS--AND HE MAY NOT BE TOO FAR OFF THE MARK ON THIS POINT. HE TALKS ABOUT PROVOKING A QUARREL WITH THE PRESIDENT IN OCTOBER SO THAT HE CAN QUIT.

2. AT THE BACK OF HIS MIND IS CLEARLY WORRY ABOUT HOW THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION WILL EVOLVE. HE IS WATCHING THE POLLS IN THE US CLOSELY AND, UNLIKE THE PRESIDENT, SEES GOVERNOR CARTER AS A LIKELY WINNER. HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT WHERE THIS WILL LEAVE THE PEACE PROCESS AND HAS VISIONS OF EARLIER CRITICS CHARGING THAT SADAT'S TOTAL RELIANCE UPON US WILL ULTIMATELY SIMPLY RESULT IN "FREEZING" THE SITUATION IN SINAI.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 11580 281329Z

IF THAT HAPPENS, HE KNOWS THAT HE WILL BE THE NUMBER ONE SCAPE-

GOAT.

3. WHILE HE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION, HE IS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SOUND OUT DEMOCRATIC PARTY ATTITUDES. SOME OF GOVERNOR CARTER'S SPEECHES ON THE ME HAVE GONE OVER LIKE LEAD BALLOONS HERE. HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A RECENT VISIT BY TED SORENSEN TO PROBE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ATTITUDES ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE. ALTHOUGH INFORMED BY SORENSEN THAT ELECTION RHETORIC SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY, HE IS NEVERTHELESS DEEPLY WORRIED.

4. AS YOU KNOW, ISMAIL GETS INTO THESE FEISTY MOODS EVERY ONCE IN AWHILE. I HAVE WORKED ON HIM TO LOOK AT THINGS MORE POSITIVELY AND SPENT TWO WHOLE HOURS WITH HIM IN ALEX-ANDRIA IN WHAT AMOUNTED TO A HAND-HOLDING OPERATION. IT HELPED SOME, BUT USUALLY NOT FOR LONG. I WILL CONTINUE TO CHEER HIM UP, BUT WANTED YOU TO KNOW HIS CURRENT MOOD AND CONCERNS.
EILTS

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